ATLAS

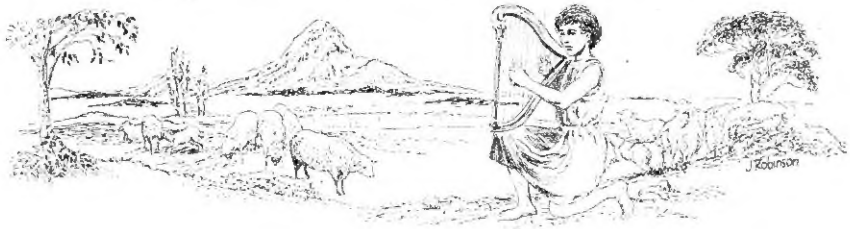
BIBLE TALES

OCT.

BIBLE TALES FOR YOUNG FOLK

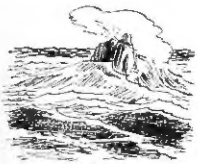
10¢

The Psalms of David



The 24th Psalm

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND THE FULNESS THEREOF,
THE WORLD, AND THEY THAT DWELL THEREIN;
FOR HE HATH FOUNDED IT UPON THE SEAS,
AND ESTABLISHED IT UPON THE FLOODS.



WHO SHALL ASCEND INTO THE HILL OF THE LORD?
OR WHO SHALL STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE?
HE THAT HATH CLEAN HANDS, AND A PURE HEART,
WHO HATH NOT LIFTED UP HIS SOUL UNTO VANITY,
NOR SWORN DECEITFULLY.

HE SHALL RECEIVE THE BLESSING FROM THE LORD,
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THE GOD OF HIS SALVATION.
THIS IS THE GENERATION OF THEM THAT SEEK HIM,
THAT SEEK THY FACE, O JACOB.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O YE GATES,
AND BE YE LIFTED UP, YE EVERLASTING DOORS,
AND THE KING OF GLORY SHALL COME IN.

WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
THE LORD, STRONG AND MIGHTY.
THE LORD, MIGHTY IN BATTLE.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, O YE GATES,
EVEN LIFT THEM UP, YE EVERLASTING DOORS;
AND THE KING OF GLORY SHALL COME IN.

WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
THE LORD OF HOSTS, HE IS
THE KING OF GLORY!

THE BOOK OF PSALMS

D-187

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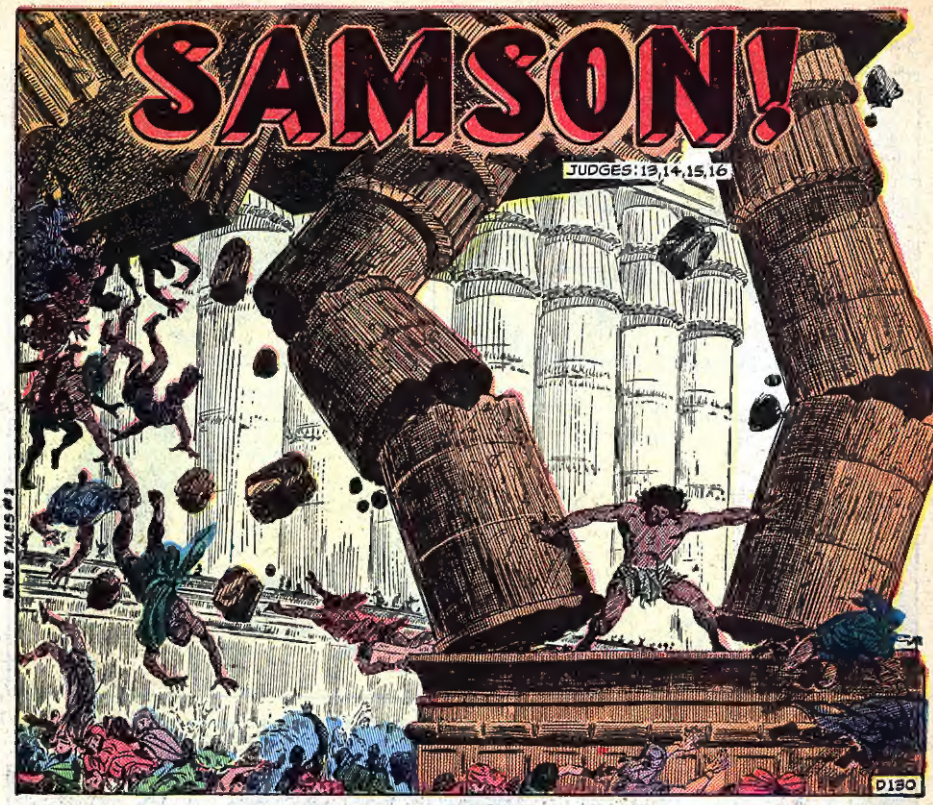
SAMSON!

JUDGES: 13,14,15,16



BIBLE TALES #1

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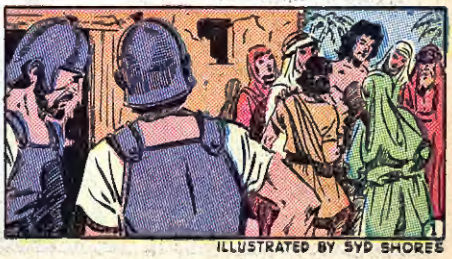
THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH LIVED IN FEAR OF THE TYRANT PHILISTINES WHO USED STRENGTH AND TERROR TO HUMBLE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

THERE WAS NO ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFY THE PHILISTINES... NO ONE TO BE THEIR CHAMPION. BUT ONE DAY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME TO MANOAH, SAYING: "YOUR WIFE SHALL HAVE A SON CONSECRATED TO GOD. HE IS NEVER TO CUT HIS HAIR."

AND SO A SON WAS BORN AND THEY NAMED HIM SAMSON. HE GREW TO BE A YOUTH OF GREAT STRENGTH; AND A RAZOR NEVER TOUCHED HIS HAIR, FOR THERE LAY THE SECRET OF HIS POWER. THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH REJOICED, AND THE PHILISTINES TREMBLED AT SIGHT OF HIM.

HERE AT LAST, WAS A CHAMPION TO FIGHT FOR THE ISRAELITES, SO THE PHILISTINES LOOKED FOR A WAY TO BE RID OF HIM.



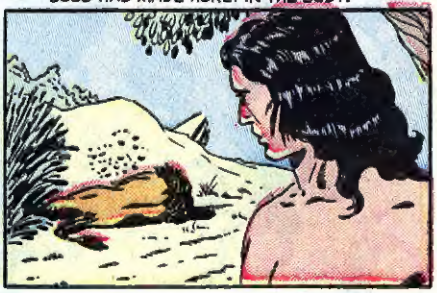
ILLUSTRATED BY SYD SHORES

So they set a lion upon Samson, but the youth had strength to match that of the beast.

And with his bare hands, Samson killed the lion.

Samson thanked the Lord, and went on his way.

Passing by the dead lion again, he saw that bees had made honey in the body.

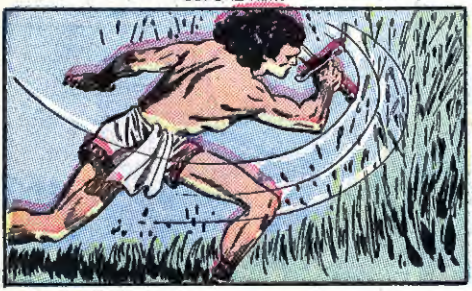


Then the Philistines sought to learn the secret of his power through one of their women who married Samson. At the wedding feast, he asked the Philistines a riddle: Out of the eater came forth meat... and out of the strong came forth sweetness. Of what do I speak?

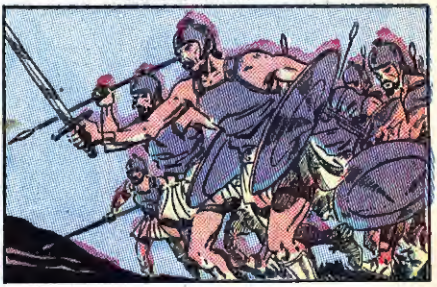
The guests could not solve the riddle. But Samson's wife coaxed him for the answer, and gave it to her friends.

They answered his riddle and ridiculed him, calling him a giant with the mind of an infant. Then his wife left him and he was alone in his anger.

SEEKING VENGEANCE, SAMSON DESTROYED THE HARVEST OF THE PHILISTINES. HE LAID WASTE EVERYTHING BEFORE HIM.



SO THE PHILISTINES DECLARED WAR ON THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH AND SENT AN ARMY OF A THOUSAND SOLDIERS AGAINST THEM.



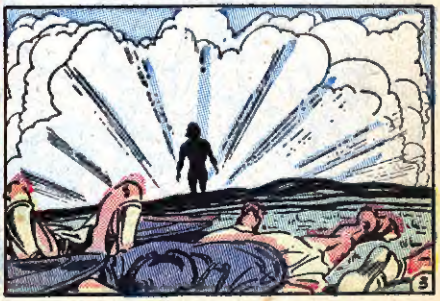
THE MEN OF JUDAH SAID, "ALL THIS IS BECAUSE OF SAMSON. LET US TURN HIM OVER TO THE PHILISTINES SO THAT THEY WILL STOP THIS WAR."

SO THEY BOUND SAMSON AND TURNED HIM OVER TO THE ENEMY.

BUT SAMSON SNAPPED HIS BONDS AND SEIZING THE JAWBONE OF AN OX, HE SLEW THE THOUSAND PHILISTINES!

AS HE HAD DONE WITH THEIR HARVEST SO HE LAID WASTE THE PROUD ARMY, FOR HE WAS THE CONSECRATED OF THE LORD.

AND HE WALKED AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD; HIS ENEMIES DESTROYED.

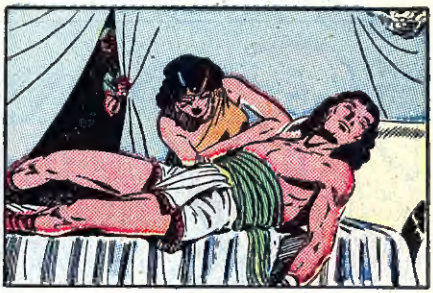


Now, Samson loved a beautiful woman and her name was Delilah.

The leader of the Philistines said to her. "Learn the secret of Samson's strength so we can bind him and humble him. For this we will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

Delilah was a greedy woman. She urged Samson to reveal the source of his strength. Samson said: "If I were tied with seven willow stems, I would be as weak as any man."

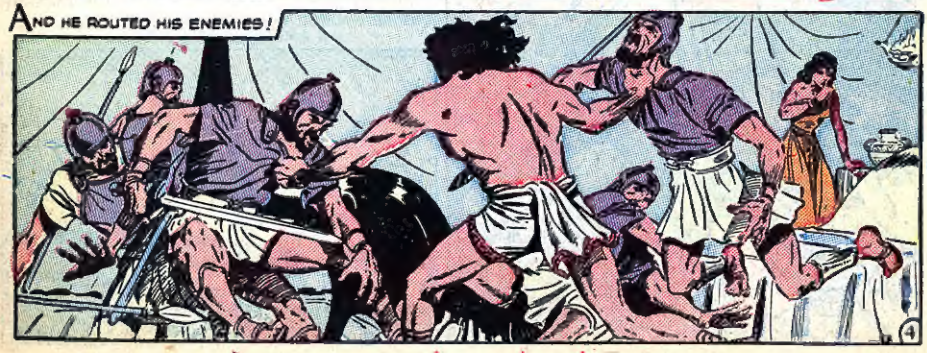
So while he slept, Delilah tied him with seven willow stems.



Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines attack you!"

But Samson broke the stems with ease.

And he routed his enemies!

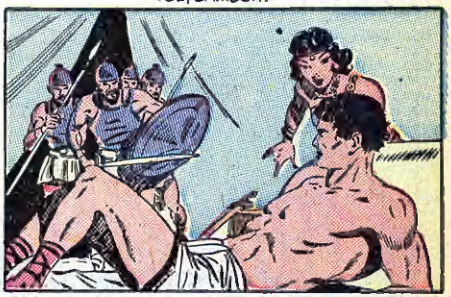


TIME AND AGAIN, DELILAH ASKED SAMSON FOR HIS SECRET, AND AT LAST HE TOLD HER THAT IF HIS HAIR WERE CUT, HIS STRENGTH WOULD GO FROM HIM.

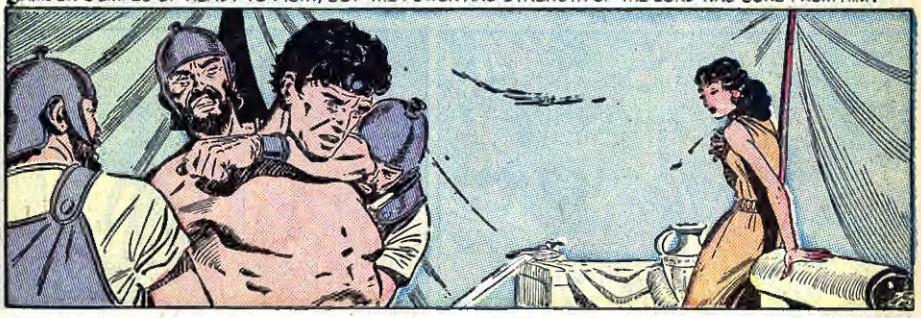
DELILAH SENT WORD TO THE PHILISTINES TO COME AT ONCE AS SAMSON HAD TOLD HER THE SECRET OF HIS HEART.

AND WHILE HE SLEPT, DELILAH CUT SAMSON'S HAIR.

THEN SHE CRIED OUT: "THE PHILISTINES ARE UPON YOU, SAMSON."



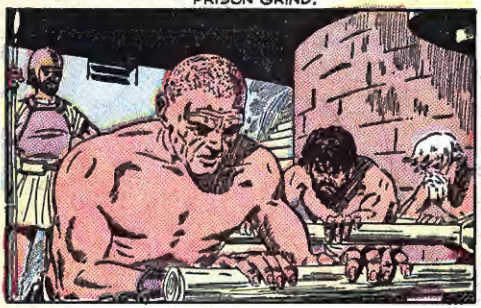
SAMSON JUMPED UP READY TO FIGHT, BUT THE POWER AND STRENGTH OF THE LORD WAS GONE FROM HIM!



THE PHILISTINES OVERPOWERED HIM. THEY PUT OUT HIS EYES AND BOUND HIM WITH FETTERS OF BRASS. THE ONCE MIGHTY SAMSON WAS NOW WEAKER THAN ANY OTHER MAN.

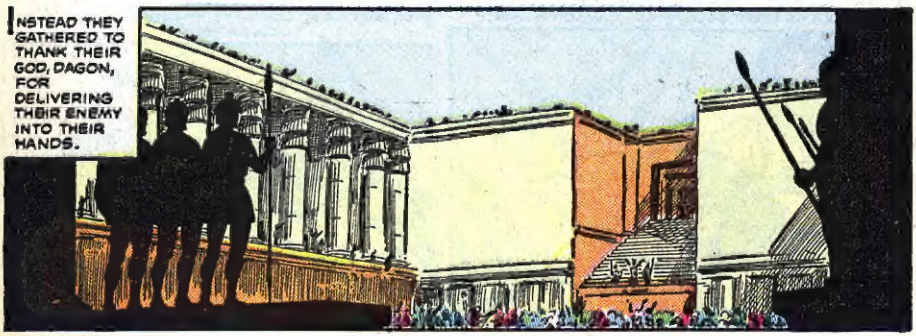
THE PHILISTINES REJOICED AS HE WAS LED TO PRISON. THEIR GREAT FOE WAS NO MORE.

SHAVED, BLINDED AND BOUND, SAMSON WORKED AT THE PRISON GRIND.



SLOWLY THE HAIR ON HIS HEAD GREW BACK, BUT THE PHILISTINES WERE TOO OVERJOYED AT HIS CAPTURE TO NOTICE.

INSTEAD THEY GATHERED TO THANK THEIR GOD, DAGON, FOR DELIVERING THEIR ENEMY INTO THEIR HANDS.



THEN THEY CRIED: "BRING OUT SAMSON, SO THAT HE CAN ENTERTAIN US!"

THE BLINDED SAMSON WAS LED OUT BY A BOY. THE PHILISTINES LAUGHED AND MOCKED HIM.

SAMSON SAID TO THE BOY: "WHERE DO I STAND?" THE BOY REPLIED: "BETWEEN THE GREAT PILLARS THAT SUPPORT THE HOUSE."

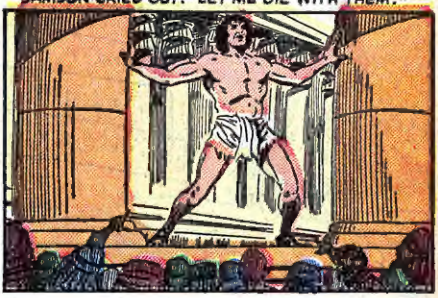
"LET ME FEEL THE PILLARS, SO I CAN LEAN UPON THEM TO REST," SAID SAMSON. "I AM TIRED."

THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH THOSE WHO HAD COME TO SEE THE SHAME OF SAMSON.

ON THE ROOF WERE THREE THOUSAND WATCHING THE FALL OF THE CONSECRATED OF GOD.

SAMSON CALLED ON THE LORD: "O LORD GOD, REMEMBER ME, I PRAY YOU, AND STRENGTHEN ME, I PRAY YOU, ONLY THIS ONCE, O GOD, THAT I MAY TAKE VENGEANCE ON THE PHILISTINES."

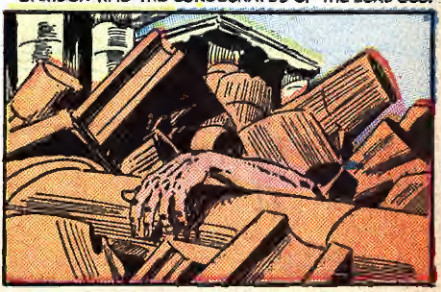
THE PHILISTINES HEARD AND LAUGHED. THEN SAMSON CRIED OUT: "LET ME DIE WITH THEM."



HE PUSHED AGAINST THE PILLARS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT AND THEY TOPPLED, FALLING UPON THE PHILISTINES, HIS ENEMIES.

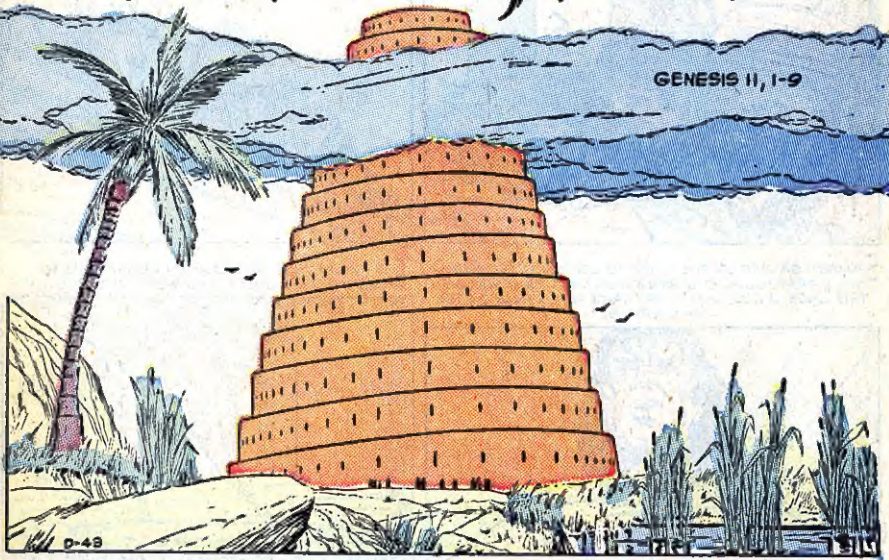
SO THEY WERE DESTROYED, AND SAMSON DIED, TOO.

BUT THE NUMBER HE KILLED AT HIS DEATH WAS GREATER THAN THAT HE KILLED IN HIS LIFE, FOR SAMSON WAS THE CONSECRATED OF THE LORD GOD.



The Tower of Babel

GENESIS 11, 1-9

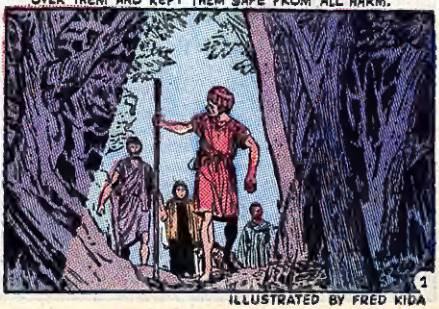


THE SONS OF NOAH WERE MANY. THEY GREW AND MULTIPLIED AND HAD FAMILIES AND THEY ALL SPOKE THE SAME LANGUAGE.

THERE WERE SO MANY THAT THEY HAD TO FIND A PLACE TO LIVE, SO THEY PACKED THEIR BELONGINGS AND SET OUT TO LOOK FOR ONE.

THEY JOURNEYED FROM THE EAST, ACROSS BURNING SANDS...

AND THROUGH DAMP, COLD FORESTS. THE LORD WATCHED OVER THEM AND KEPT THEM SAFE FROM ALL HARM.

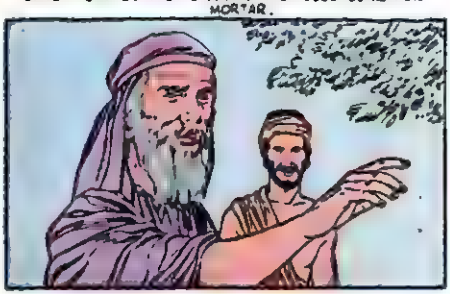


ILLUSTRATED BY FRED KIDA

One day the great multitude came to a beautiful plain in the land of Shinar.

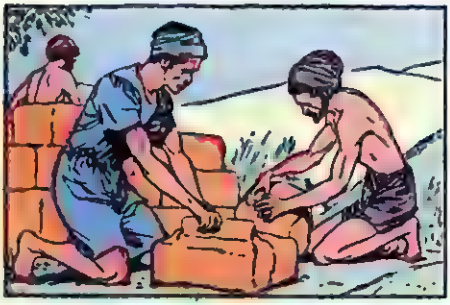
They liked it so much they decided to live there. And so they built homes for themselves

Then their leader said: "Let us make bricks and bake them." So they did and they used slime for mortar.



And then the leader said: "Let us build a vast and mighty city, and a tower to reach unto heaven. We will make a name for ourselves so that we will not be scattered all over the earth."

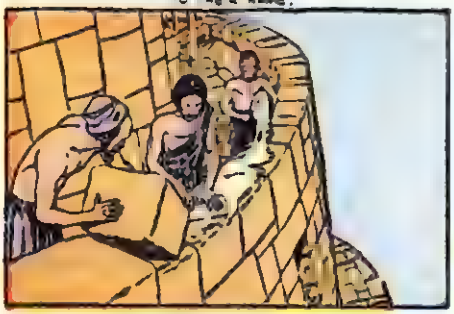
So the bricks were made...



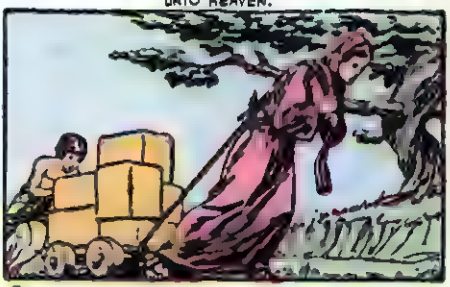
The mortar was mixed...

And the tower was begun...

The men worked night and day to build this glory to their name.



Even the women and children helped for this was to be a sign of their success and power, man small as he was, was building a tower to reach unto heaven.

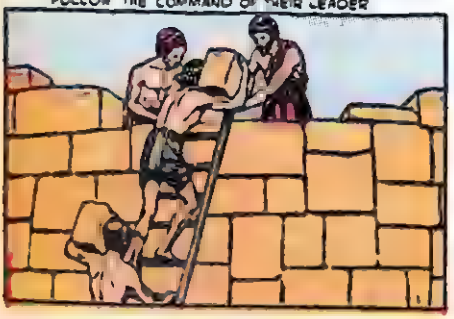


Layer after layer of brick went up and higher and higher climbed the mighty tower

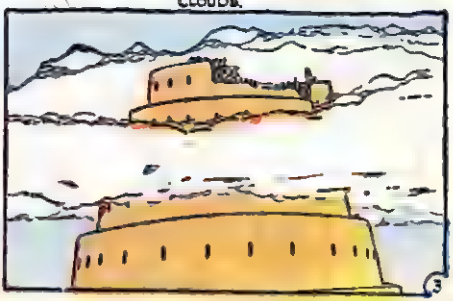
The leader saw all this and was proud of his command which was bringing it about.

"More bricks!" he cried. "Make more bricks! It must go even higher!"

And the workers bent their backs and strained to follow the command of their leader

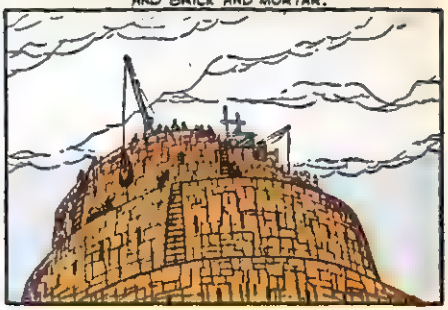


After months of labor the top stories of the tower were so high they were hidden by the clouds.

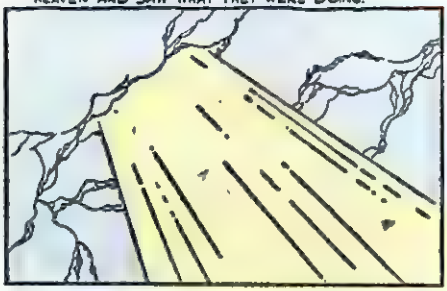


"HIGHER! HIGHER!" CRIED THE LEADER.

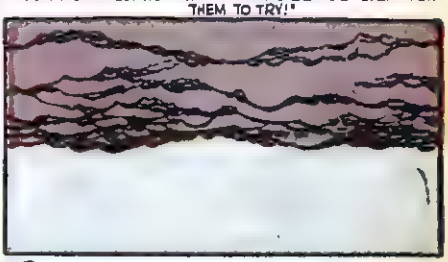
AND HIGHER CLIMBED THE WORKERS WITH THEIR STONE AND BRICK AND MORTAR.



BUT THERE WAS ONE WHO LOOKED DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND SAW WHAT THEY WERE DOING.



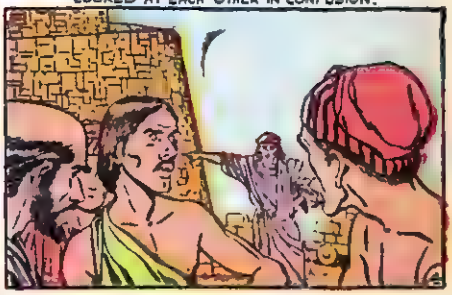
IT WAS THE LORD GOD AND HE WAS NOT PLEASED BY WHAT HE SAW. "BEHOLD!" HE SAID. "THEY ARE AS ONE... THEY HAVE ONE LANGUAGE, BUT NOW THEY HAVE BECOME TOO AMBITIOUS. NOW NOTHING WILL BE TOO GREAT FOR THEM TO TRY!"



AND HE SAID: "I WILL CONFUSE THEIR LANGUAGE SO THAT THEY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER!" AND A BOLT OF LIGHTNING DESCENDED AS A WARNING OF THE WRATH OF JEHOVAH!

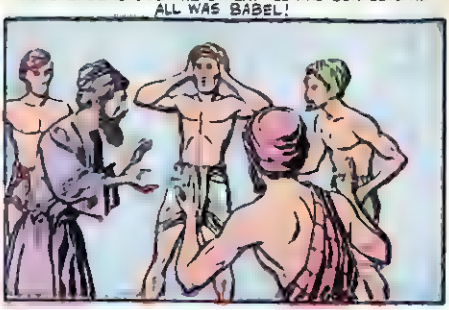
"DO NOT STOP!" CRIED THE LEADER. "KEEP WORKING! BRING MORE BRICKS! BUILD IT HIGHER! REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE LIGHTNING."

BUT THE WORKERS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HIM! HE SPOKE IN A STRANGE, FOREIGN TONGUE AND THEY LOOKED AT EACH OTHER IN CONFUSION!



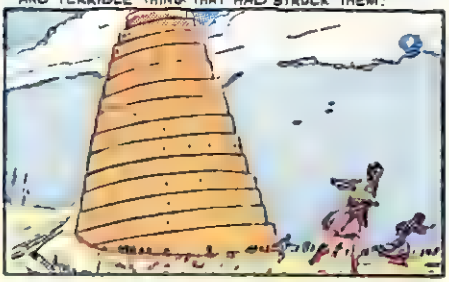
"What does he say?" asked one man but his words, too, were strange to those who heard him!

Father cried to son and brother to brother but none understood the other. All was confusion... All was Babel!



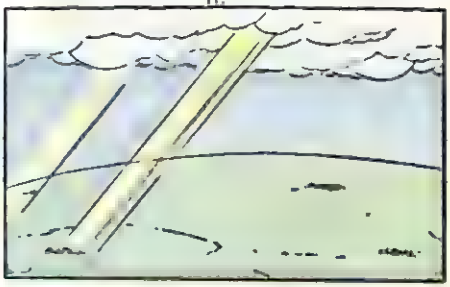
They became frightened and they rushed down and away from the unfinished tower that was to have been a monument to their glory!

In fear and panic they ran from the tower in all different directions, trembling at this strange and terrible thing that had struck them!

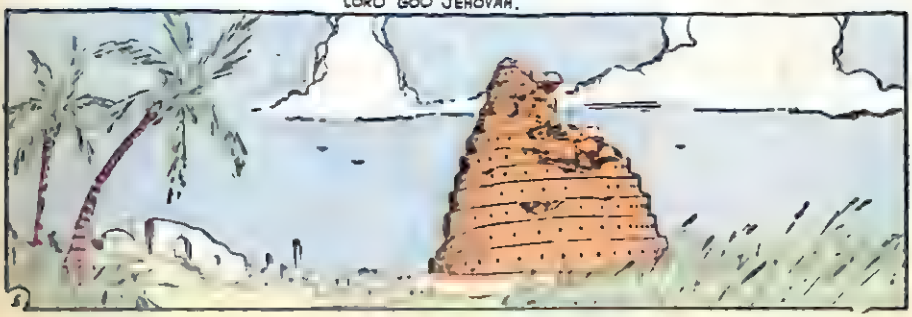


Father left son and brother left brother. They were now all strangers to one another.

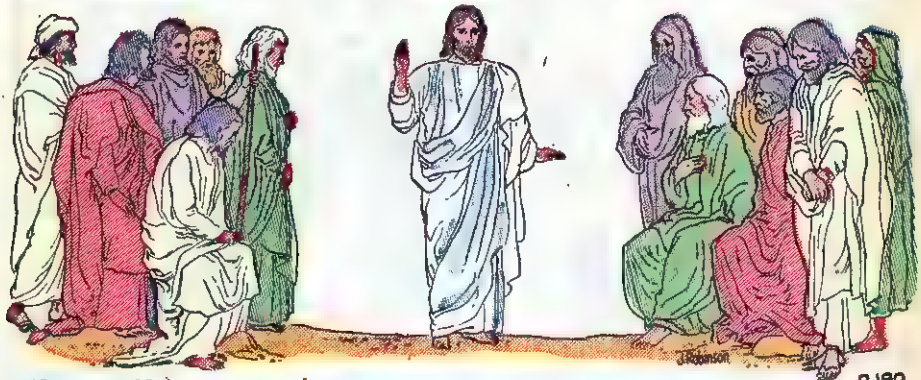
And they scattered all over the earth, settling in different lands as the Lord had so ordered it.



The tower of Babel was forgotten... and so was the ambition which dared to match the power of the Lord God Jehovah.



There Shall I Be



MATTHEW 18, 19-20

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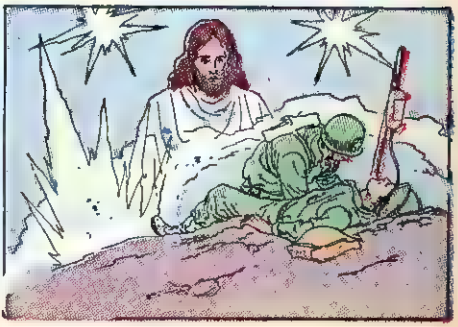
JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES THE MEANING OF THEIR TASKS ON EARTH, AND THEN HE SAID TO THEM: "WHATEVER YOU SAY ON EARTH, SHALL BE SAID IN HEAVEN."

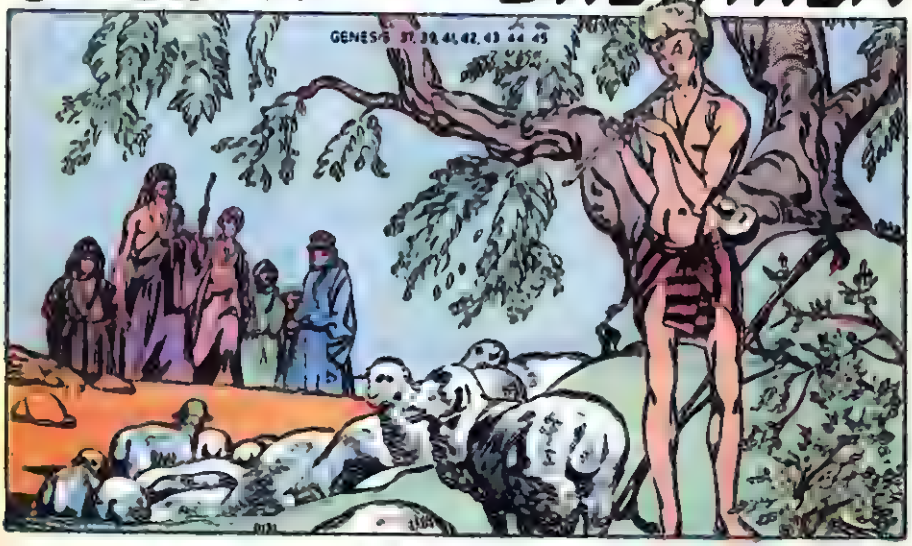
"AND I SAY TO YOU: IF TWO OF YOU SHALL AGREE ON ANYTHING ON EARTH ABOUT ANYTHING ASKED OF YOU, IT SHALL BE DONE BY MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN."

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I IN THE MIDST OF THEM."

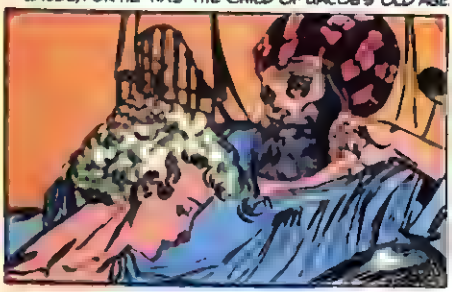


Children of the Bible

JOSEPH AND HIS BRETHREN

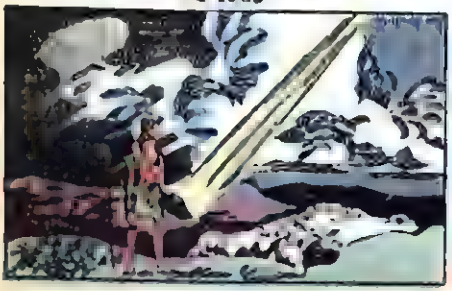


JOSEPH WAS THE MOST BELOVED OF THE SONS OF JACOB, FOR HE WAS THE CHILD OF JACOB'S OLD AGE



BECAUSE JACOB LOVED HIS SON SO, HE MADE HIM A BEAUTIFUL GARMENT. A COAT OF MANY COLORS WHEN HIS BROTHERS SAW THIS, THEY HATED JOSEPH AND WERE ENVIOUS

BUT JOSEPH KEPT ON TENDING THE FLOCKS WITH HIS BROTHERS AND WALKED IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD

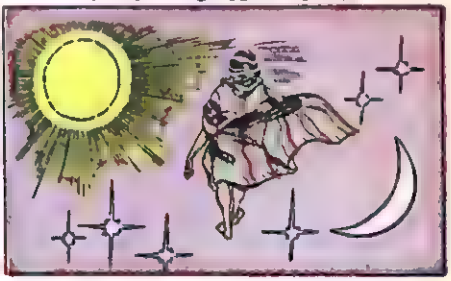


ONE DAY HE TOLD THEM OF WHAT HE HAD DREAMED "I DREAMED," HE SAID "WE ALL BOUND SHEAVES OF WHEAT AND LO, MY SHEAF STOOD UPRIGHT, AND YOURS BOWED TO MY SHEAF"

ILLUSTRATED BY B KRUSTEIN

His brothers sneered and said: "What is this, you dreamer? Do you really think you shall be our king and rule over us, your brothers?" And they hated him the more.

Then he dreamed again... and he dreamed that the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to him

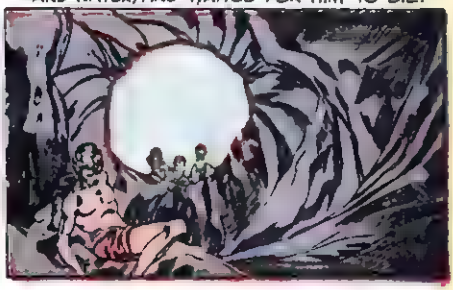


"What is this you have dreamed?" said his father. "Shall I and your mother and your brothers really come to bow ourselves before you?" Joseph said: "This I have dreamed, my father."

And his brothers hated him the more. They decided to kill Joseph, and one day, their chance came in the desert.

They seized him, and stripped away his coat of many colors.

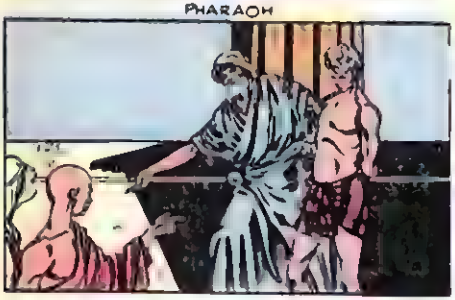
Then they threw him into a pit without food and water, and waited for him to die.



But traders came by, going from Gilead into Egypt, and the brothers sold Joseph to them for twenty pieces of silver.

They dipped the coat in goat's blood and showed it to Jacob, saying they had found it. The father mourned for his beloved, thinking he had been eaten by a beast.

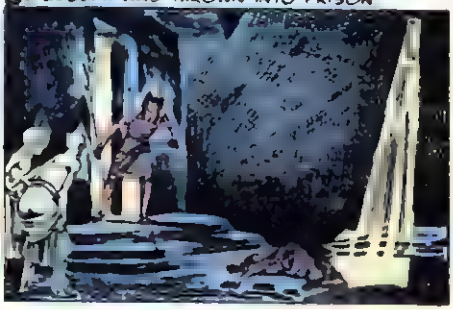
But Joseph still lived he was taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh



Joseph found favor in the eyes of Potiphar and served him well.

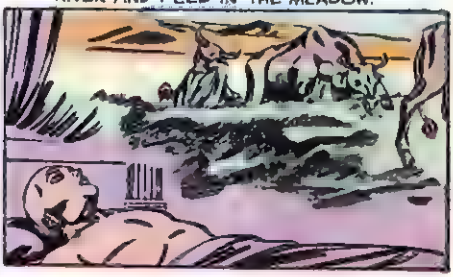
But Potiphar's wife hated the young slave and told lies to her husband about him

So Joseph was thrown into prison



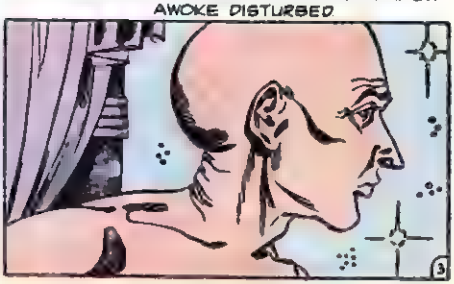
There, the other prisoners told him their dreams, and he told them what they meant. Each meaning was true.

One night Pharaoh had two dreams. In one, he saw seven fat cows come out of the river and feed in the meadow.



But seven thin cows followed and ate up the first seven.

In the second dream, he saw seven strong ears of corn come out of a stalk, only to be eaten by seven thin ears. Pharaoh awoke disturbed.

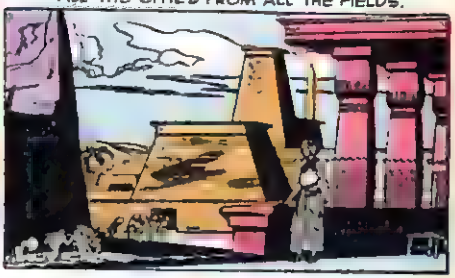


NO ONE COULD INTERPRET THE DREAMS. THEN SOMEONE REMEMBERED JOSEPH THE DREAMER, AND PHARAOH SENT FOR HIM.

JOSEPH SAID "YOUR DREAMS, O PHARAOH, TELL YOU THAT THERE WILL BE SEVEN YEARS OF PLENTY FOLLOWED BY SEVEN YEARS OF FAMINE. YOU MUST STORE UP FOOD DURING THE YEARS OF PLENTY AGAINST THE LEAN YEARS."

"GOD HAS SHOWN YOU ALL THIS," SAID PHARAOH, "SO I SHALL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THIS WORK. ONLY I SHALL BE GREATER THAN YOU IN ALL OF EGYPT."

SO JOSEPH WAS MADE GOVERNOR OF EGYPT, AND HIS MEN GATHERED UP THE FOOD INTO ALL THE CITIES FROM ALL THE FIELDS.



MEANWHILE, JACOB STILL MOURNED HIS LOST SON. THE BROTHERS SAW HIS GRIEF AND REGRETTED WHAT THEY HAD DONE.

SOON THERE CAME THE YEARS OF FAMINE AND THE PEOPLE CAME TO JOSEPH FOR FOOD. AMONG THEM WERE HIS BROTHERS, AND THEY KNEW HIM NOT, ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZED THEM.

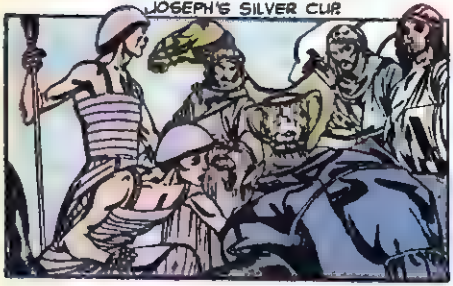
"YOU ARE SPIES," HE CRIED TO THEM. "WE ARE BUT TWELVE BROTHERS. THE YOUNGEST IS WITH OUR FATHER AS HE IS TOO YOUNG TO TRAVEL AND ANOTHER IS NO MORE."

"YOU ARE SPIES," JOSEPH SAID. HE TOOK SIMEON CAPTIVE AND ORDERED THE OTHERS TO BRING BENJAMIN, THE YOUNGEST, TO HIM TO PROVE THEY WERE NOT SPIES.

THE BROTHERS RETURNED TO THEIR FATHER WITH TEARS FOR ANOTHER BROTHER WHO HAD BEEN LOST. THEY FEARED TO GO BACK WITH BENJAMIN.

BUT THEY HAD TO RETURN FOR MORE FOOD, AND THIS TIME THEY BROUGHT THE YOUNGEST. JOSEPH FEASTED THEM AND GAVE THEM GRAIN AND SENT THEM ON THEIR WAY.

BUT JOSEPH'S SOLDIERS STOPPED THEM AND SEARCHED THEIR BAGS. THERE THEY FOUND JOSEPH'S SILVER CUP.



BROUGHT BACK TO JOSEPH, JUDAH SAID: "WE ARE NOT THIEVES. BUT DO NOT TAKE BENJAMIN IN PUNISHMENT. TAKE ME. OUR FATHER'S HEART IS ALREADY BROKEN BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF ONE BELOVED."

NOW JOSEPH KNEW THAT HIS BROTHERS REGRETTED WHAT THEY HAD DONE. "DO YOU NOT KNOW ME?" HE SAID: "I AM YOUR BROTHER JOSEPH, WHOM YOU SOLD INTO SLAVERY."

THE BROTHERS EMBRACED, WEEPING FOR JOY, RE-UNITED AT LAST. JOSEPH'S DREAMS HAD COME TRUE, FOR THEY HAD ALL BOWED DOWN TO HIM.

AND JOSEPH WELCOMED JACOB AND ALL HIS FAMILY TO COME AND LIVE IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN.

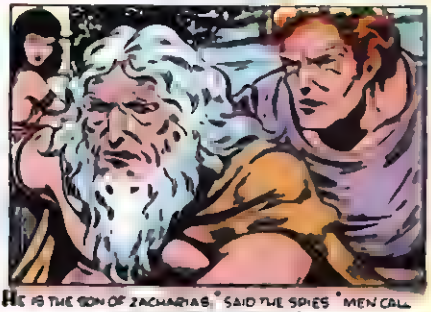
THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

MATTHEW 3, 1-17
MARK 1, 1-11
LUKE 3, 1-23
JOHN 1, 15-34

HEROD THE TETRARCH THE KING WAS A MAN OF EVIL AND HE LIVED IN EVIL WAYS

HIS SPIES CAME TO HIM AND SAID "THERE IS A PROPHET SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE AGAINST YOU! HE IS ROUSING THEM TO ANGER!"

"THEN HE IS MY ENEMY!" SAID HEROD "GO AND LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHATEVER HE SAYS WHEN HE GOES TOO FAR, ARREST HIM! WHAT IS HIS NAME?"

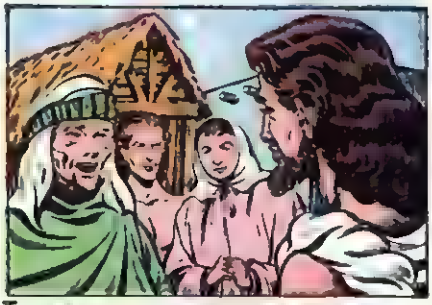


"HE IS THE SON OF ZACHARIAS," SAID THE SPIES "MEN CALL HIM JOHN THE BAPTIST."

ILLUSTRATED BY BILL BUCKLEY

So it was that Herod first heard the name of John the Baptist. Miles away, in Nazareth, a carpenter's thirty year old son also heard the news.

"He preaches of the coming of the Savior" the people said. "And he baptizes all who would be saved."



The Nazarene looked up to heaven. "The time has come, O my Father," he said, and he began the journey from Nazareth to the River Jordan

There also came all the people of Jerusalem and Judaea, and of all the region around Jordan

The poor and the humble came, seeking salvation. The spies came, seeking information they could bring to Herod, who waited on his throne

... And the carpenter's son, of Nazareth, came ...

All came to listen to the words of John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea.

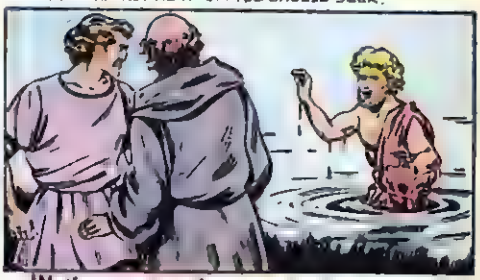
"REPENT YE!" CRIED JOHN. "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND! I HAVE COME AS THE PROPHET ESAIAS SAID: 'THERE SHALL BE THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, SAYING: PREPARE YOU THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATH STRAIGHT!'"

AND THE PEOPLE CRIED: "YOU ARE THE MESSIAH! YOU ARE THE SAVIOR!"

"WHO IS HE?" CRIED THE SPIES. "TELL US HIS NAME! SHOW US WHO HE IS!"

THE PEOPLE CONFESSED THEIR SINS TO HIM, AND HE BAPTIZED THEM.

WHEN JOHN SAW THE SPIES OF HEROD HE SAID: "O GENERATION OF VIPERS, WHO HAS WARNED YOU TO FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME? YOU THINK YOU CAN BE SAVED BY COMING TO ME, BUT I AM NOT HE WHOM YOU SHOULD SEEK!"



"NO!" SHOUTED JOHN. "HE WHO COMES AFTER ME IS MIGHTIER THAN I! I AM NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO FASTEN THE LATCHETS OF HIS SHOES! I BAPTIZE YOU ONLY WITH WATER — HE SHALL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY GHOST AND WITH FIRE!"

"HE IS AMONG YOU NOW!" SAID JOHN. "REPENT! REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!"

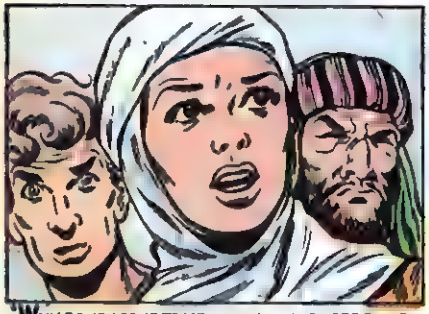
"ARE YOU NOT THE CHRIST?" DEMANDED THE SPIES. "NO," SAID JOHN. "BUT HE IS HERE, AND WILL SOON MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN!" "THEN WHO ARE YOU?" THE SPIES PERSISTED.

"I SPREAD THE LIGHT," REPLIED JOHN. "BUT I AM NOT THE LIGHT. I AM NOT THE CHRIST. I AM THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS!"

THE SPIES SAID TO EACH OTHER, "HE IS A MADMAN! THERE IS NO ONE HERE WHO LOOKS LIKE THE MESSIAH. LET US TELL HEROD THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!" AND THEY LEFT THE PLACE.

WHEN THEY WERE GONE, JOHN POINTED TO THE NAZARENE, AND SAID: "BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD!"

"IT'S ONLY THE CARPENTER'S SON, JESUS OF NAZARETH," THEY SAID. "HE CANNOT BE THE SAVIOR!"



JESUS STEPPED INTO THE WATERS OF THE RIVER JORDAN BESIDE JOHN. "BAPTIZE ME," SAID JESUS.

"WHY DO YOU COME TO ME, WHEN I HAVE NEED TO BE BAPTIZED BY YOU?" ASKED JOHN.

"LET IT BE THIS WAY NOW, SO WE CAN DO WHAT WE MUST DO," SAID JESUS. JOHN TOOK WATER, AND SO BAPTIZED JESUS OF NAZARETH.

THEN THE HEAVENS OPENED, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD IN THE FORM OF A DOVE CAME DOWN OVER JESUS, AND A VOICE SAID: "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED!"

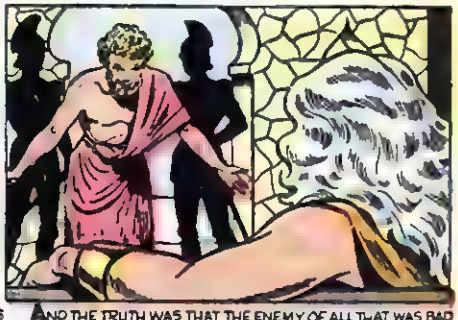
SO JOHN WAS ARRESTED BY THE SOLDIERS OF HEROD, BUT HE WAS CALM AS THEY LED HIM AWAY.

"WHAT DOES HE MEAN?" GROWLED HEROD. BUT HIS SCRIBES WERE AFRAID TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH

"THE MESSIAH! IT IS THE MESSIAH!" CRIED THE PEOPLE.

THEY RAN THROUGH THE STREETS SHOUTING THE GLORIOUS NEWS. HEROD HEARD THIS, AND TREMBLED. "ARREST THAT PREACHER BEFORE HE CAUSES ANY MORE TROUBLE!" HE CRIED

AND HE SMILED AT HEROD, SAYING: "DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH ME. MY WORK IS DONE."



AND THE TRUTH WAS THAT THE ENEMY OF ALL THAT WAS BAD AND EVIL, JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, WALKED UPON THE EARTH AS A MORTAL MAN!

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

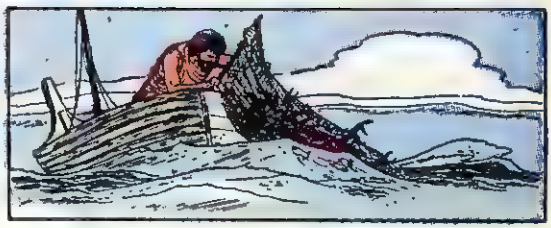
JBolinson

JESUS SAID:

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE THIS: IT IS LIKE A TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE FIELD THAT IS FOUND BY A MAN WHO IS SO OVERJOYED, HE HIDES THE TREASURE, AND SELLS ALL THAT HE HE HAS SO HE CAN BUY THAT FIELD."

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MAN WHO SEEKS THE BEST PEARLS, AND WHEN HE FINDS THE RICHEST ONE OF ALL, HE SOLD, ALL THAT HE HAS SO THAT HE COULD BUY IT."

"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A NET THAT WAS CAST INTO THE SEA. IT BROUGHT IN EVERY KIND OF FISH, BUT THOSE ON SHORE KEPT THE GOOD AND THREW AWAY THE BAD."

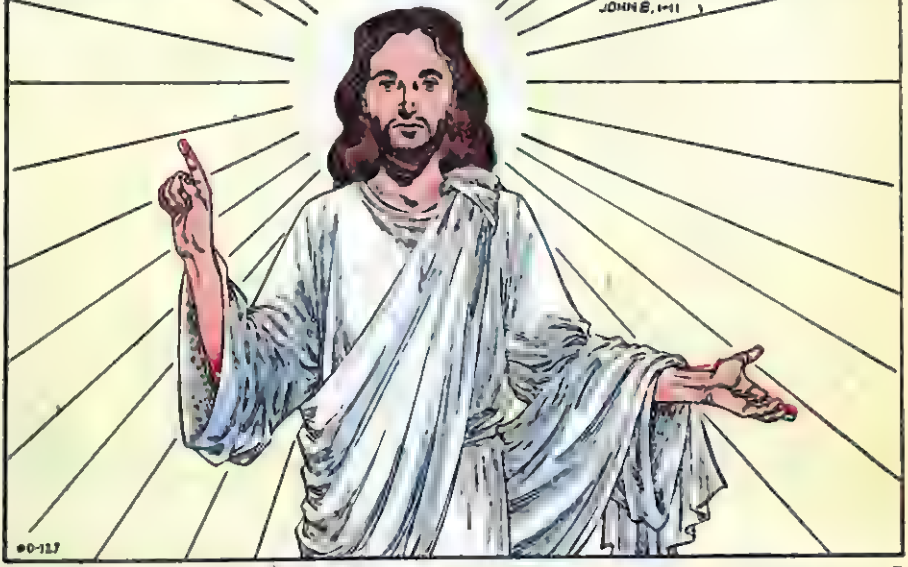


"SO SHALL IT BE AT THE END OF THE WORLD: THE ANGELS SHALL COME FORTH AND SEPARATE THE WICKED FROM THE JUST."

MATTHEW 13,44-49

Go, And Sin No More

JOHN 8, 1-11



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THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS MADE HIM VERY POPULAR THROUGHOUT THE LAND. VAST CROWDS FOLLOWED HIM WHEREVER HE WENT, TO LISTEN TO HIS WORDS

HE SPOKE TO THEM, TELLING OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN, AND GIVING THEM HOPE OF LIFE EVERLASTING

BUT THERE WERE SOME WHO THOUGHT THIS PREACHER SPOKE DANGEROUS IDEAS. THEY LOOKED ON IN ANGER WHEN HE SAID THAT ALL MEN WERE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF GOD.

"WE MUST TEST HIM," THEY SAID. "WE MUST MAKE HIM BETRAY HIMSELF."

ILLUSTRATED BY JOE MANSELLY

"But he is very careful," said another. "All he does is quote the scriptures." "Yes," spoke up someone else, "but in a way that has never been done before."

Then the chief Pharisee said: "He sets himself even above the prophets — does he think himself the Messiah?" And another said: "He has never said so."

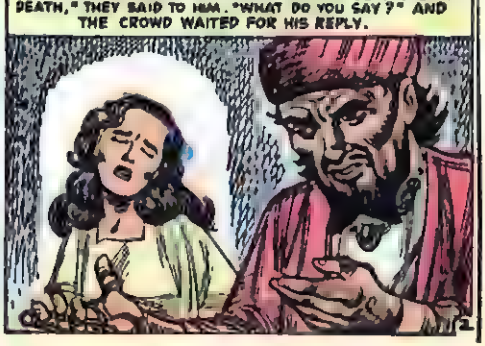
"So be it," said the chief. "We must find ways for him to betray himself."

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives to pray. He knew of the trials that were coming for the Son of God.

Early in the morning he entered the temple and all the people came to him and listened to his words.

But now the Pharisees were ready. They brought a sinful woman to Jesus.

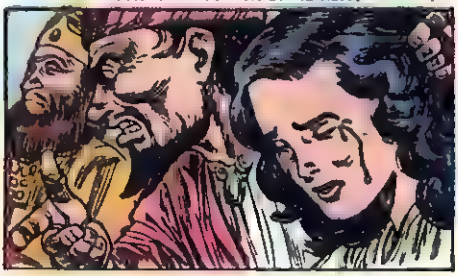
"The law commands that this woman be stoned to death," they said to him. "What do you say?" And the crowd waited for his reply.



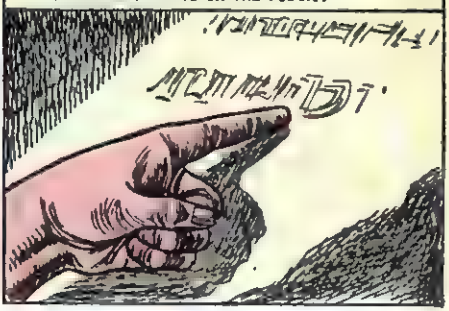
JESUS DID NOT REPLY. THE PHARISEES WAITED. DID HE DARE TO DEFY THE ANCIENT LAW?

"WELL?" THEY CRIED, "WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?" JESUS BEGAN TO WRITE ON THE GROUND WITH HIS FINGER, AS THOUGH HE HAD NOT HEARD...

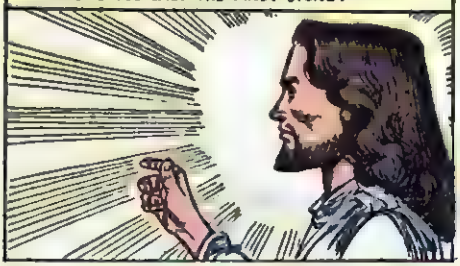
"YOU SAY YOU ARE A MAN OF MERCY AND FORGIVENESS," SAID THE LEADER. "WOULD YOU FORGIVE THIS SINFUL WOMAN AND CAST ASIDE THE LAW? WHAT DO YOU ANSWER? FREE HER OR STONE HER?"



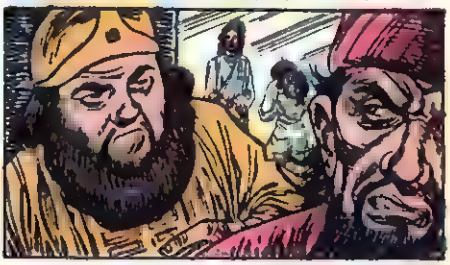
STILL JESUS DID NOT REPLY, BUT CONTINUED HIS STRANGE WRITING ON THE FLOOR.



THEN HE SPOKE. "LET HIM WHO IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU CAST THE FIRST STONE."



STUNNED, THE PHARISEES WENT OUT ONE BY ONE, LEAVING JESUS ALONE WITH THE WOMAN.

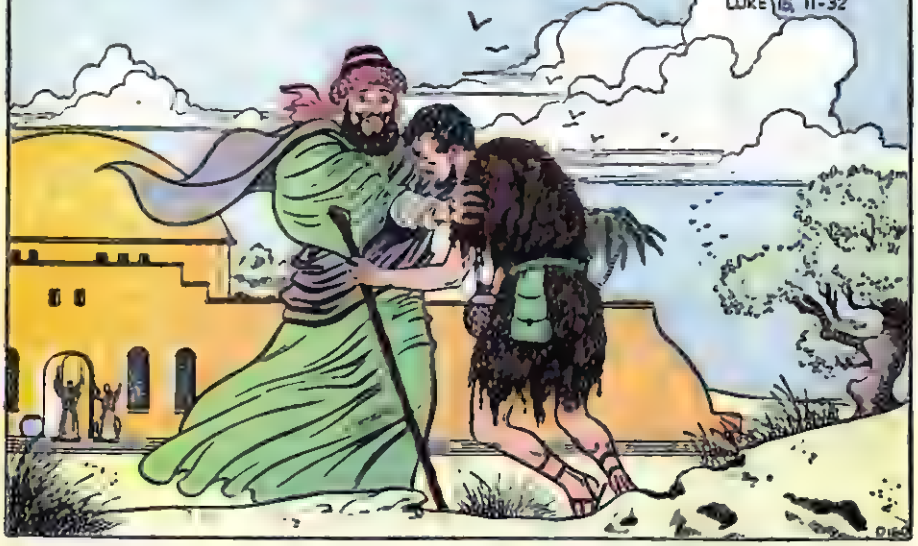


HE SAID TO HER, "WHERE ARE YOUR ACCUSERS? HAS NO MAN CONDEMNED YOU?" THE WOMAN ANSWERED: "NO MAN, LORD."

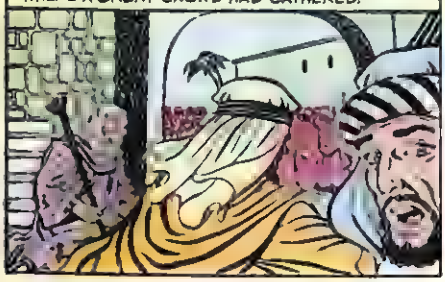
AND JESUS SAID: "NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU. GO, AND SIN NO MORE."

The PRODIGAL SON

LUKE 15, 11-32



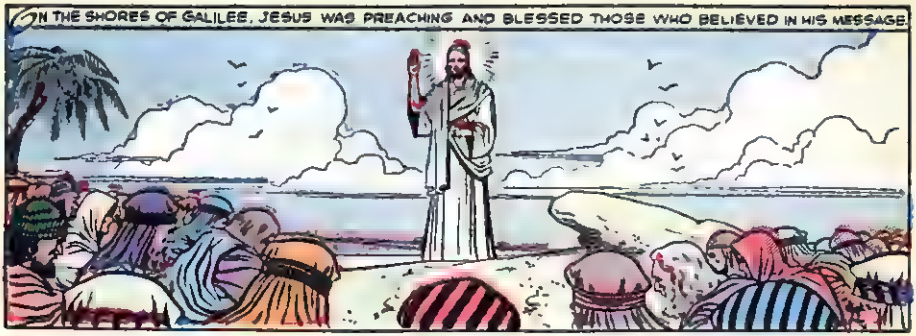
THERE WAS MUCH EXCITEMENT IN THE LAND OF JUDEA. PEOPLE WERE ALL RUSHING OUT INTO A PLACE WHERE A GREAT CROWD HAD GATHERED.

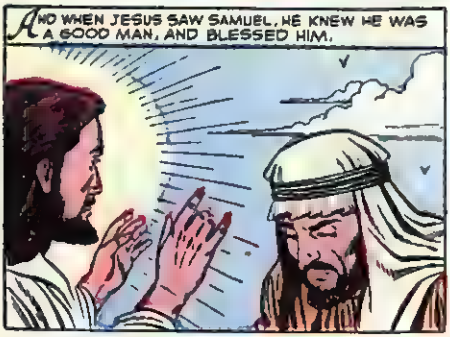


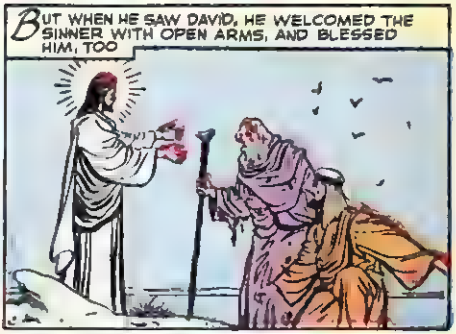
A WRINKLED GNARLED HAND GRASPED THE ROBE OF A PASSER-BY. "STOP!" PLEADED A BROKEN VOICE. "PLEASE TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING?"

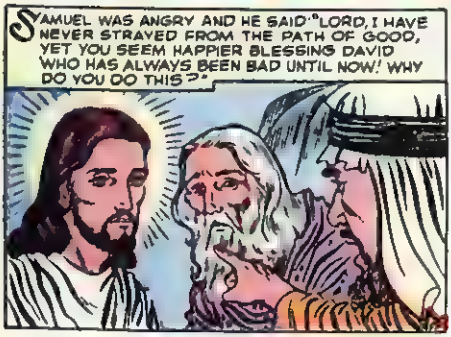
"JESUS OF NAZARETH IS PREACHING A NEW HOPE," SAID SAMUEL. "BUT IT IS ONLY FOR GOOD PEOPLE SUCH AS I... NOT FOR A MISERABLE SINNER LIKE YOU, DAVID."

"ALL YOUR LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED IN EVIL AND WASTED GOD'S GIFTS! JESUS HAS NO USE FOR YOU!" AND SAMUEL WENT ON. BUT DAVID HOBBLED ALONG AFTER THE CROWDS.

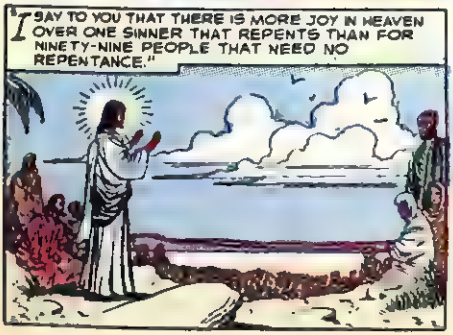

ON THE SHORES OF GALILEE, JESUS WAS PREACHING AND BLESSED THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN HIS MESSAGE.


AND WHEN JESUS SAW SAMUEL, HE KNEW HE WAS A GOOD MAN, AND BLESSED HIM.


BUT WHEN HE SAW DAVID, HE WELCOMED THE SINNER WITH OPEN ARMS, AND BLESSED HIM, TOO

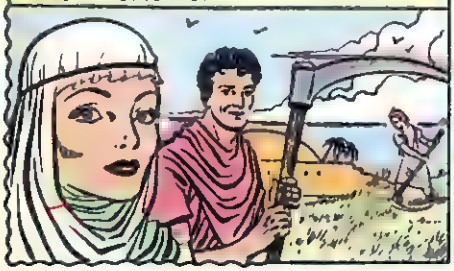

SAMUEL WAS ANGRY AND HE SAID: "LORD, I HAVE NEVER STRAYED FROM THE PATH OF GOOD, YET YOU SEEM HAPPIER BLESSING DAVID WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN BAD UNTIL NOW! WHY DO YOU DO THIS?"

JESUS SMILED AND REPLIED: "IF YOU HAD A HUNDRED SHEEP AND LOST ONE, WOULD YOU NOT BE HAPPY WHEN YOU FOUND IT AND REJOICE?"


"I SAY TO YOU THAT THERE IS MORE JOY IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTS THAN FOR NINETY-NINE PEOPLE THAT NEED NO REPENTANCE."

"DO YOU COMPARE A HUMAN TO A LOST SHEEP?" ASKED SAMUEL "I WILL TELL YOU A STORY," SAID JESUS

A CERTAIN MAN HAD TWO SONS THE ELDEST WAS STEADY AND FAITHFUL, BUT THE YOUNGER HAD A ROVING EYE AND WAS RESTLESS.



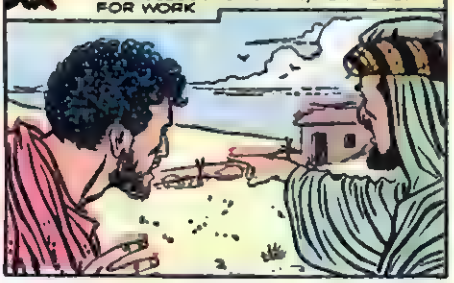
HE SAID TO HIS FATHER, "GIVE ME MY SHARE OF MY INHERITANCE." SO THE FATHER DIVIDED HIS GOODS AND GAVE THE YOUNGER HIS SHARE.

THE SON TOOK HIS MONEY AND WENT TO A FAR COUNTRY WHERE HE LIVED A RIOTOUS LIFE SPENDING HIS SHARE OF HIS FATHER'S GOODS.

NEWLY-FOUND FRIENDS GATHERED ABOUT HIM TO HELP HIM ENJOY HIS PLEASURES

BUT THERE CAME A DAY WHEN HIS POCKETS WERE EMPTY HIS FRIENDS LEFT HIM AND HE WAS ALONE

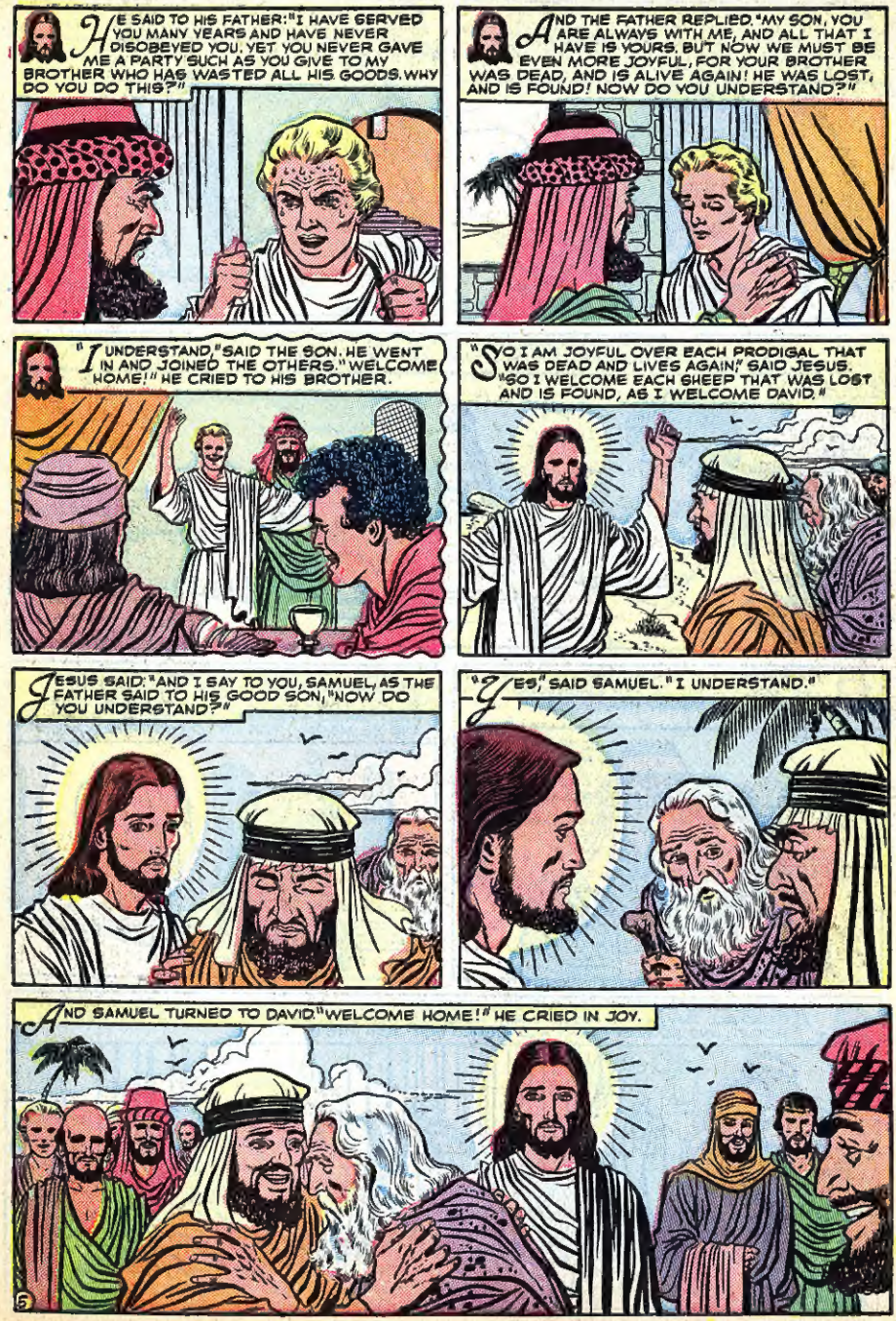
SOON THERE WAS A FAMINE IN THE LAND, AND HE BECAME ILL FOR LACK OF FOOD. FRIENDLESS AND HUNGRY, HE LOOKED FOR WORK



HE FOUND A JOB TENDING PIGS, BUT STILL THERE WAS NO FOOD AND HE WOULD EAT THE HUSKS THAT WERE FED TO THE SWINE.

THEN HE SAID TO HIMSELF "IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE EVEN HIS SERVANTS HAVE FOOD TO SPARE AND YET I STARVE."

"I WILL GO TO HIM AND I WILL SAY: 'FATHER I HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND BEFORE YOU, I AM NO LONGER WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON, SO TAKE ME AS ONE OF YOUR SERVANTS.'"
SO THE SON LEFT HIS HERD OF SWINE AND LEFT ON THE JOURNEY TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSE.
AND THE FATHER SAW HIM COMING FROM AFAR AND JOY LIGHTED UP HIS EYES. HE RAN OUT OF THE HOUSE TO MEET HIS SON WHO HAD RETURNED.
"FATHER, I HAVE SINNED!" CRIED THE SON, BUT HIS FATHER EMBRACED HIM AND KISSED HIM.
"BRING OUT THE BEST ROBE AND PUT IT ON MY SON!" CRIED THE FATHER TO HIS SERVANTS. "PUT A RING ON HIS HAND AND SHOES ON HIS FEET. BRING A FATTED CALF AND LET US EAT IT AND BE MERRY, FOR MY LOST SON IS HOME!"
AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY AND CELEBRATION. NOW THE ELDEST SON HAD BEEN WORKING HARD ALL DAY IN THE FIELD. WHEN HE CAME HOME HE SAW ALL THIS AND THE REASON FOR IT, AND HE WAS ANGRY AND WOULD NOT JOIN THE OTHERS.


He said to his father: "I have served you many years and have never disobeyed you. Yet you never gave me a party such as you give to my brother who has wasted all his goods. Why do you do this?"
And the father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. But now we must be even more joyful, for your brother was dead, and is alive again! He was lost, and is found! Now do you understand?"
"I understand," said the son. He went in and joined the others. "Welcome home!" he cried to his brother.
"So I am joyful over each prodigal that was dead and lives again," said Jesus. "So I welcome each sheep that was lost and is found, as I welcome David."
Jesus said: "And I say to you, Samuel, as the father said to his good son, 'Now do you understand?'"
"Yes," said Samuel. "I understand."
And Samuel turned to David. "Welcome home!" he cried in joy.
5

The Parable of THE TREE That was a King

JOTHAM CRIED TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE TOP OF MOUNT GERIZIM AND SAID: "BEHOLD, A TRAGEDY HAS COME UPON US. ABIMELECH HAS KILLED ALL HIS BROTHERS EXCEPT ME, WHO HID MYSELF. HE HAS MADE HIMSELF KING AND HAS PLOTTED WITH THE MEN OF SHECHEM TO BRING THIS ABOUT!

NOW HEARKEN TO ME, YOU MEN OF SHECHEM, SO THAT GOD WILL LISTEN TO YOU!

I WILL TELL YOU A FABLE!

ONE TIME, THE TREES WANTED TO NAME A KING TO RULE OVER THEM, AND THEY SAID TO THE OLIVE TREE: 'BE OUR KING!'

BUT THE OLIVE TREE SAID: 'SHALL I LEAVE THE GOOD THAT I HAVE, WHICH IS SO RICH THAT GOD IS HONORED WITH MY LEAVES, AND BECOME ONLY A KING OVER TREES?'

SO THE TREES WENT TO THE FIG TREE AND SAID: 'BE OUR KING!'

BUT THE FIG TREE SAID: 'SHALL I LEAVE MY SWEETNESS AND MY FRUIT JUST TO BE PROMOTED OVER OTHER TREES?'

SO THEY WENT TO THE VINE AND SAID: 'BE OUR KING AND REIGN OVER US!'

BUT THE VINE SAID: 'SHALL I LEAVE MY WINE, WHICH CHEERS GOD AND MAN, JUST TO RULE OVER YOU?'

THEN ALL THE TREES WENT TO THE BRAMBLE BUSH: 'BE OUR KING!'

AND THE BRAMBLE BUSH SAID: 'IF YOU NAME ME KING, THEN YOU MUST PUT YOUR TRUST IN ME--BUT IF YOU DO NOT, THEN LET FIRE COME OUT OF THE BRAMBLE AND DEVOUR THE CEDARS OF LEBANON!' "

"THIS IS MY FABLE," SAID JOTHAM. " NOW IF YOU HAVE DONE RIGHT IN NAMING MY BROTHER KING, THEN REJOICE IN HIM!"

THEN JOTHAM CRIED: "BUT IF NOT---THEN LET FIRE COME FROM ABIMELECH AND DEVOUR YOU--- AND LET FIRE COME FROM YOU AND DEVOUR ABIMELECH!"

AND IT CAME TO PASS AS JOTHAM PREDICTED. IT CAME ABOUT THAT ABIMELECH TURNED ON THE MEN WHO HAD MADE HIM KING AND DESTROYED THEM... AND WAS HIMSELF KILLED.

JUDGES 9, 7-57

Approved by His Holiness Pope Pius XII

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